



# TORREY PINES

## COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD

Faye Oetsky-Weil, Chair  
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Ms. Marsi Steirer  
Deputy Director, Water Policy and Strategic Planning  
City of San Diego Water Department  
600 B Street, Suite 700, MS 907  
San Diego, CA 92101-4506

Dear Ms. Steirer:

The Torrey Pines Community Planning Board received a presentation about the Water Reuse Study 2005. This study, which was requested by the San Diego City Council, has been examining options to increase the use of recycled water in the City. The Study's final report will be provided to the City Council for input and policy direction.

The Torrey Pines Community Planning Board understands that the Study has evaluated several options to maximize the use of recycled water that can be produced by the City's two water reclamation plants. Some options involve familiar uses of recycled water such as landscape irrigation, construction, and industrial processing. Other options involve using advanced water treatment technology to produce highly treated recycled water. This technology allows recycled water to be added to groundwater storage basins and water storage reservoirs so that it can help supplement other sources of drinking water.

Increasing the production and use of recycled water in the City will provide the following benefits to City residents and the San Diego area. Some of these benefits are:

- Decrease and offset the amount of water that must be imported into the City from hundreds of miles away and decrease the amount of treated wastewater that must be discharged into the ocean
- Help meet the water needs of population projections that indicate by 2030, the City could need 25 percent more water than it uses today
- Avoid drought restrictions on outdoor watering that could be mandated on imported water used for this purpose
- Provide a local source of water that can be used beneficially in a variety of ways

In general, members of the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board support the efforts within the Water Department's Water Reuse Study 2005 to analyze and evaluate all possible options to increase the production and utilization of recycled water in our community. Several members did have comments and, while supporting the overall goals, expressed several concerns:

1. The possible necessity to have two separate water systems serving residences, one existing and one from recycled water. This could lead to confusion in plumbing and potential exposure to harmful materials, albeit at low concentration.
2. The cost of moving water out of the City for golf course and park use while not pumping it back into the major holding reservoirs for recycling.
3. Taxpayers should not be charged for costs to pipe to distances other than to public water supplies.
4. Funds need to be used to enclose the California Aqueduct in pipes or liners and covers to reduce the 50% loss of Northern California water in transit.
5. Water Department needs to provide further education and community outreach on these issues.

Despite these concerns, the Board was unanimous in supporting moves to utilize recycled water for our reservoirs and for non-consumption purposes.

Sincerely,

*Faye Detsky-Weil*

Faye Detsky-Weil  
Chair